Criteria for opening of branch post offices

†925. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether relaxation is given in criteria fixed for opening of branch post offices in remote, hilly and border States like Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of branch post offices targeted to be opened or upgraded in Himachal Pradesh in the Ninth Five Year Plan period and whether the target has been achieved; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the target fixed for the Tenth Five Year Plan period together with the action plan to achieve the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of relaxation in criteria given for hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas are *inter alia,* given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) the number of branch post offices targeted to be opened or upgraded in Himachal Pradesh in the Ninth Five Year plan Period and target achieved are furnished below:

	Targeted	Achieved
Sub post offices	5	3
Branch post offices	36	20

(d) The target fixed and target achieved for the opening of sub post offices and branch post offices in Himachal Pradesh for the first two years of the Tenth Five Year Plan period are given below:

	2002-2003		2003-04	
Sub post offices	-Nil-	-Nil-	1	1
Branch post offices	2	2	2	2

For the Tenth Five Year Plan, targets have been approved only for the first two years. Implementation programme for the next three years using Plan resources require approval of the competent authorities.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

Norms for opening post offices:

1. **Norms for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices:**

1.1 **Population:**

(a) **In the normal areas:**

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO village).

(b) **In hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas:**

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in group of villages.

1.2 Distance:

(a) **In normal areas:**

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms.

(b) **In hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas:**

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

1.3 Anticipated Income:

(a) **In normal areas:**

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33$^{1}/_{3}$% of the cost.

(b) **In hilly, tribal, desert and inaccessible areas:**

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

Development of technology in wireless sectors

926. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to develop technology in wireless sector to spread net connectivity;